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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/727,087

Examiner

ANH PHUNG

Applicant(s)

IMONDI, GIULIANO GENNARO

Art Unit

2824

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to ____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-22.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 02 December 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>3/22/04</u> 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____. 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Search History</u>. |
|--|---|

Anh Phung

**ANH PHUNG
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

DETAILED ACTION

1. In response to the U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 10/727,087 filed on Dec. 02, 2003, claims **1-22** are pending in the application.

Examiner's amendment

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The claim has been amended as follows:

In claim **6**, line 1, change "**the** reset circuit" to – **a** reset circuit --.

The examiner's amendment has been made in order to place the application in a condition for allowance.

Priority

3. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

4. This office acknowledges receipt of the following items from the Applicant:
Information Disclosure Statements (IDS) filed March 22, 2004.
5. Information disclosed and listed on PTO 1449 was considered.

Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Claims **1-22** are allowed.

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Satin et al. (US 6,845,029), Satin (US 6,426,910), Kim (US 5,912,841) and Ha (US 5,852,580) disclose a fuse and latch circuit similar to that of the present application, but fail to teach:

“a fuse read circuit coupled to the fuse and a reset indication signal, the fuse read circuit sensing the state of the fuse; and a transfer circuit, coupled between the fuse read circuit and the latch, for isolating the latch in response to a read operation caused by the reset indication signal such that the state stored in the latch remains after the reset indication signal indicates completion of the read operation” as claimed in the independent claim 1; or

“a flash cell read circuit coupled to the flash cell and a reset indication signal, the flash cell read circuit sensing the state of the flash cell; and a transmission gate, coupled between the flash cell read circuit and the latch circuit, for isolating the latch circuit when the reset indication signal is inactive and allowing the state of the flash cell through to the latch circuit when the reset indication signal is active” as claimed in the independent claim 9; or

“an inverter coupled to the node to invert the logical high state to a logical low state; and a transmission gate, coupled between the inverter and the latch circuit, for isolating the latch circuit when the reset indication signal is inactive and allowing the logical low state through to the latch circuit when the reset indication signal is active” as claimed in the independent claim 13; or

“a logic control circuit coupled to the node and the reset indication signal, the logic control circuit generating a programmed state control signal and an erased state

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control signal in response to voltage level of the node and the reset indication signal; a first control transistor, coupled to the programmed state control signal, that puts the latch circuit into the programmed state when the programmed state control signal is active; and a second control transistor, coupled to the erased state control signal, that puts the latch circuit into the erased state when the erased state control signal is active” as claimed in the independent claim **16**; or

“reading the fuse state; if the fuse state is in a programmed state, storing a logic low state through a transmission gate into a latch circuit; resetting the memory device; and reading the logic low state from the latch circuit without precharging the latch circuit from the fuse” as claimed in the independent claim **18**; or

“reading a state of the cell; latching the state into the latch circuit; isolating the latch circuit from the cell; resetting at least a portion of the memory device; and reading the state from the latch circuit without precharging the latch circuit from the cell” as claimed in the independent claim **19**; or

“a fuse read circuit coupled to the fuse and a reset indication signal, the fuse read circuit sensing the state of the fuse; and a transfer circuit, coupled between the fuse read circuit and the latch, for isolating the latch in response to the reset indication signal such that the state stored in the latch remains after the reset indication signal indicates completion of a reset operation” as claimed in the independent claim **20**.

Any comments considered necessary by applicants must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comment on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **ANH PHUNG** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-1883**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **RICHARD ELMS**, can be reached on **(571) 272-1869**. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **(703) 872-9306**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at **866-217-9197** (toll-free).

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ANH PHUNG
PRIMARY EXAMINER